

CLAIMS:

1. ~~A personal computer system comprising:~~  
a personal computer;  
a first display unit coupled to said personal computer, said first display unit configured to receive first display information from a first application launched by said personal computer and displaying the first display information; and  
a second display unit coupled to said personal computer and distinct from said first display unit, said second display unit configured to receive second display information from a second application launched by said personal computer and displaying the second display information.

2. The personal computer system according to claim 1, wherein said personal computer, said first display unit and said second display unit are integrated together in a single physical structure.

3. The personal computer system according to claim 1, wherein said first display unit and said second display unit are not physically attached to each other.

4. The personal computer system according to claim 1, wherein said first display unit is a main display unit and said second display unit is an auxiliary display unit.

5. ~~The personal computer system according to claim 4, further comprising a wireless interface for coupling said second display unit to said personal computer.~~

6. The personal computer system according to claim 4, wherein said second display unit includes a display screen and an input user interface configured to receive an input to change a variable associated with the second application.

1           7.   ~~The personal computer system according to claim 4, wherein said first display~~  
2   unit and said second display unit each has a display screen, the display screen of said second  
3   display unit being larger than the display screen of said first display unit.

1           8.   The personal computer system according to claim 4, wherein a display screen of  
2   said second display unit is a liquid crystal display or an electro-luminescent panel.

1           9.   The personal computer system according to claim 4, wherein the second  
2   application is a messaging application.

1           10.   The personal computer according to claim 4, wherein the second application is an  
2   audio, video or multimedia player application.

1           11.   The personal computer according to claim 4, wherein said second display unit has  
2   a user interface with features not available with a user interface associated with said first display  
3   unit.

1           12.   The personal computer according to claim 4, wherein the second display  
2   information is information pushed from an external network.

1           13.   The personal computer according to claim 11, wherein the external network is the  
2   Internet.

1           14.   The method according to claim 4, wherein said second display unit includes a  
2   modem configured to couple said second display unit to an external network without having to  
3   connect to the external network through said host computer.

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1           15.   ~~The method according to claim 4, wherein said computer system further~~  
2   comprises a third display unit coupled to said personal computer and distinct from said first and  
3   said second display unit, said third display unit configured to receive third display information.

4 from a third application launched by said personal computer and displaying the third display  
5 information.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, wherein said third display unit is further  
2 configured to receive the first display information and/or the second display information.

1 17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said host computer is configured to  
2 dynamically control which display information said third display unit receives.

1 18. The method according to claim 16, wherein said host computer is configured to  
2 determine whether said third display unit has sufficient screen space available to receive the first  
3 or second display information.

1 19. The method according to claim 16, wherein said host computer is configured to  
2 determine whether said third display unit is authorized to receive the first or second display  
3 information.

1 20. In a computer system having a host computer and a first display unit coupled to  
2 said host computer, a method for controlling the display of information associated with a  
3 launched application, said method comprising the steps of:

4 determining whether a second display unit is available to receive information from said  
5 host computer;

6 sending display information associated with the application to the second display unit  
7 when the second display unit is available to receive information from said host computer; and

8 sending the display information associated with the application to said first display unit

9 when no second display unit is available to receive information from said host computer.

1        21. ~~The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of sending the~~  
2 display information associated with the application to said first display unit when a second  
3 display unit is available to receive information from said host computer.

1        22. The method according to claim 21, wherein when a second display unit is  
2 available to receive information from said host computer, further comprising the step of sending  
3 second display information to said first display unit, the second display information differing  
4 from the display information sent to said second display unit.

1        23. The method according to claim 20, wherein the application is an audio, video or  
2 multimedia player application.

1        24. The method according to claim 20, wherein the application is a messaging  
2 application.

1        25. The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of determining further  
2 comprises determining whether a second display unit is authorized to receive the display  
3 information.

1        26. ~~The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of determining further~~  
2 comprises determining whether the second display unit has sufficient display space to display the  
3 ~~information.~~

1        27. The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of determining further  
2 comprises determining whether a second display unit is coupled to said host computer.

1        28. ~~In a computer system having a host computer and a main display unit and an~~  
2 auxiliary display unit coupled to said host computer, a method for displaying information  
3 ~~associated with an active application, said method comprising the steps of:~~

4 ~~displaying information on said main display unit;~~

5 transmitting information associated with an active application from said host computer to  
6 said auxiliary display unit; and  
7 displaying the information on said auxiliary display unit.

1 29. The method according to claim 28, wherein after said step of displaying, said  
2 method further comprising the step of launching the active application responsive to an input.

1 30. The method according to claim 29, wherein responsive to said step of launching,  
2 said method further includes the step of displaying additional information associated with the  
3 active application on said auxiliary display unit.

31. The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of receiving the  
input at an input device associated with said auxiliary display unit.

32. ~~The method according to claim 29, wherein the input device is a sensor.~~

3 33. In a computer system having a host computer, and a first display unit and a  
4 second display unit coupled to said host computer, a method for displaying information  
5 associated with an active application, said method comprising the steps of:

4 displaying information associated with an application on one of said first display unit and  
5 said second display unit; and

6 displaying the information displayed on the one of said first display unit and said second  
7 display unit on the other of the one of said first display unit and said second auxiliary display  
8 unit responsive to an event.

1           34.    The method according to claim 33, wherein responsive to the event, said method  
2 further comprising the step of discontinuing the display of the information on the one of said first  
3 display unit and said second display unit.

1           35.    The method according to claim 33, wherein the event is a user input.

1           36.    ~~A computer network comprising:~~

2 a server;

3 plural computer systems coupled to said server, each computer system including,

4 a host computer coupled to said server,

5 a main display unit, coupled to and controlled by said host computer, said main  
6 display unit configured to receive first display information from a first application launched by  
7 said host computer and displaying the first display information; and

8 an auxiliary display unit coupled to and controlled by said host computer and  
9 distinct from said main display unit, said auxiliary display unit configured to receive second  
10 display information from a second application launched by said host computer and displaying the  
11 second display information.  
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